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FRANK A. MUNSEY.

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SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1908.

Next Week's Conference.

As to the substantial results of the conference of governors at the White House next week, much depends on how well the State executives behave themselves. Not that there is grave fear that they will carve their salad or attempt any sword-swallowing feats when the pie is served, but there is always the possibility that men with crank notions will break into such a gathering, and, by trying to make it do the impossible, prevent it from accomplishing the possible and useful.

No doubt President Roosevelt realizes the difficulty and danger thus presented. His anxiety to make the conference a great and epoch-making success is well known by people who have had occasion to discuss it with him. So experienced a public man will not have omitted to recognize the need of guarding against this kind of situations.

It is certainly an interesting fact that this conference presents a strange parallel to the constitutional convention of 1787. That gathering was called originally on the initiative of Washington and some of his close friends, not with the idea of making a Constitution at all. The first purpose was to consider a plan which Washington had in his mind, of developing and conserving and utilizing natural resources; and first of these was the development of internal waterways. Washington wanted a great canal dug to connect the Potomac with the Ohio. He had discovered that it was an interstate work, in which different colonies must co-operate. The necessity for co-operation suggested conference; the convention was the result; and once in session, that convention developed the Constitution and made one nation where thirteen had been before.

It is no idle speculation to suggest that the writer of 100 years hence may discover that another era was ushered upon the stage of national progress by the convention of 1908. There is no overestimating the importance and significance of the movement for conserving resources. It means the summoning of science, industry, finance, government, to the greatest effort for posterity that has ever been seriously undertaken in the world. It is not, however, merely a work for posterity. It is a service to next year and the next decade that President Roosevelt proposes, quite as much as a service to the next century.

The mere making of an appraisal of natural wealth; the direction of attention to the appalling national waste; the consideration of our inexcusable national recklessness of the future; the contemplation of the rapid reduction in the volume of minerals, metals, and timber—these things alone cannot but be of immense benefit. Along with this, the conference will hear great specialists and authorities tell of the means which science and advanced administration methods are providing to lessen the pace at which resources are being exhausted. Altogether, it is scarcely possible that the lesson can be entirely overlooked by those statesmen who, charged with making and administering laws, have been too careless of the duty to conserve the wealth of this wonderful continent.

Turning on the Light.

When a Government has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in installing electric lighting plants in its buildings, any plan to shut down that machinery and buy light from a corporation should be thoroughly ventilated. That was the view taken by the president of the local Stationary Engineers and the Central Labor Union, by Representative Cary of Wisconsin, by Secretary Cortelyou, and by The Times. It proved to be an important view when the House came to consider the now famous section 9 of the sundry civil appropriation bill.

By that paragraph the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to contract for electric fluid for all the bureaus of the Government in the District, without a single exception, at a rate which may or may not have been profitable—6 cents per kilowatt hour for the first million kilowatt hours and 2½ cents thereafter. If there was any precedent inquiry on the part of the Committee on Appropriations, no reference

has been made to it from the floor. As far as the public knows, this was a proposition to change the method of lighting the Government buildings in the District, to abandon costly and modern machinery installed within very recent years, and to make the Government entirely beholden to a corporation for its lighting service, without any shadow of reason. It failed, and in the absence of more information it well deserved to fail.

What an inquiry would disclose no one can be sure. But the Secretary of the Treasury, at whose request it was rumored this paragraph had been inserted, has reported to the committee that in at least four buildings the Government is now producing its own current for approximately one-half the proposed rate. That is a showing in itself which should make Congress hesitate. In the face of it, and in the light of the earlier action of the House in fixing 75 cents as a maximum rate for gas used by the Government, it may reasonably be concluded that even without the point of order made by Mr. Gaines the paragraph would have been eliminated.

New Jersey Steps Out.

"After two years of effort, extending through three Legislatures, a civil service law has been passed for New Jersey," says Good Government. "Next after those in New York and Massachusetts the New Jersey law is the most comprehensive of the State laws. As an initial civil service reform law * * * it is a notable achievement."

This is the progress of reform in a State which only two years ago sat hard on a proposition to establish the most elementary regulations against turning the spoilsman loose in the public employment. It is a gauge of American opinion. For Representatives inclined to support bills like that recently reported in the House to give the place-hunter a grip on the Census Bureau it cannot fail to be of interest. Particularly should it inject a little ginger into the civil service reform views of any that waver among New Jersey's twelve representatives in the National Legislature.

About this time look for announcements that various literary men, statesmen, sprigs of nobility, etc., have hired out to report the national conventions for particular newspapers. The high subsequent mortality among common or garden newspapermen, who will have to go along to do the work will this easily be explained.

The Hearst Independence League is going to hold its national convention in Chicago July 27 and 28, which means that Mr. Hearst's party proposes to have plenty of time to think matters over after the other parties have shown their hands.

Gentlemen in receipt of letters from the President have on several occasions discovered that, once given to the public, they are apt to be quite as embarrassing to the recipient as to the writer.

The appearance of a boom for Judge Parker for President recalls the fact that he is still with us, and will serve the useful purpose of heading off any report that he might have been one of the victims of Mrs. Gurness.

Capt. Bill McDonald is coming on to Washington, but not to "charge hell with one bucket of water." He has more serious business on hand: may discuss the Brownsville incident with Senator Foraker.

Even the most bitter of his critics must admit that Mr. Jerome puts up a right plausible article of explanation. One more week of this suspense, and Mrs. Gurness will be as numerous as Tascott was in his palmist and most plentiful days.

The report that three members of the House of Representatives, after a conference about it extending over several minutes, had developed no important difference of opinion about the currency question, is believed to be grossly exaggerated.

Tom L. Johnson is producing a fine sample of the stock article of Democratic harmony which helps the Republicans win so many elections.

The charge that Gen. Leonard Wood couldn't possibly drill a regiment, is just a mean fling, no more worthy of consideration than the strange protest against sending a ship to sea in command of a doctor.

The English Winston Churchill continues to have as much political hard luck as his American namesake.

MAY NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

An elderly New Yorker gave up his seat to a woman in a street car and dropped dead.

"The cause is principally interesting because of its singular variety.—Exchange.

April Circulation Figures

Net Daily Average

The Times.....45,519

The Star.....37,973

The Association of American

Advertisers has examined and certified the circulation of this publication. The details of such examination is on file at the New York office of the Association. No other figures of circulation guaranteed.

No. 21. Secretary.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1908.

Weekly Review of Books: Authors and Publishers

"Not long ago I asked F. Marion Crawford if he were aware that some literary critics accused him of writing solely for the ubiquitous young person and for parlor-table decoration," writes Walter Littlefield, in the Chicago Record-Herald. "His answer was sufficiently characteristic and convincing to me. It may possibly be so to others. He said:

"That is because these critics have no imagination. After all, why should I offend intelligence, culture, and decency, as well as the sentimentality of thousands of my old readers by soliciting the applause of a public which is both artistic and erotic in its tastes? It requires an art to call a spade a spade. I think you will agree with me that literature, like other arts of expression, requires not only sympathy, but also knowledge and tact on the part of the audience, in order that it may enjoy the best artistic products.

"A man who has no knowledge of art or sympathy with it—a confirmed materialist, for example—will find no pleasure in contemplating a picture, a statue, in reading poetry, or in listening to music. I write for men and women of the world, just as I always have, but I am glad that the 'ubiquitous young person,' as you call her, still finds pleasure in my books. For me it is a great assurance to have it said that innocence need not blush at anything I have written than it is to have experts in erotica cite my pages for examples of moral depravity.

"Some day, however, I may write a novel solely for mature minds."

It is not generally known that Dr. Edward Breck, author of the new field-manual of wilderness sport, "The Way of the Woods" (Putnam), was one of the most daring heroes of the Spanish war.

Resigning his position as American vice consul general in Berlin he became assistant to the American naval attaché. After a year, watching the Spanish German ports, watching the Spanish agents and negotiating for ships and munitions, his offer to go to Spain was accepted by the Navy Department, and he spent the last two months of the war in the coast cities of that country, charting and photographing the new defenses.

In the course of his career from Barcelona to Portugal he was twice fired on and once arrested (at Cadix) and kept in a guard-house while his German passport was examined by the German authorities. He was taken to the hotel was searched. Owing to the results of these examinations, and to letters of introduction from General Weyler, which Dr. Breck or "Dr. Koenig" as he was called, had personally received in Madrid from "The Butcher," he escaped the firing-squad, and was told to leave the country, a command he obeyed by shifting to the nearest Spanish town, where there were batteries to be inspected.

Had Dr. Breck, though a New England Yankee, not spoken German as well as his native tongue, his conversion with the German consul would undoubtedly have been his undoing. He had here to transmute his American passport into a German one. Navy Department, would have been invaluable.

Dr. Breck's present abode is a cabin on the shores of a wilderness lake, where he lives surrounded by his books and his pets.

A Land of Never Was.

Eleanor Plafsted Abbot and Helen Alden Knipe, who last year so cleverly illustrated Dwight Burrough's "Jack the Giant Killer, Jr.," are now engaged upon a series of drawings of Mother Goose characters for a child's book by Millicent Oimsted, which will be brought out this fall by George W. Jackson Co. under the title of "The Land of Never Was."

The new story takes three small tots to this wonderful land where Mother Goose lives, and where she has some very amusing experiences, meeting with most of the characters from the old nursery rhymes that all little folk love and that we ourselves loved as children. It is not Mother Goose retold, but a brand new story with the Mother Goose characters as actors in the tale.

Origin of the Maypole.

"May-Day ceremonies were not in origin a mere sign of rejoicing that the leaves were on the trees again, and the flowers blooming once more," says J. Ernest Phyllis, in his "Trees in Nature, Myth and Art," recently published by George W. Jacobs & Co. "They were religious observances, believed to secure the fertility of the soil and the growth of the crops."

"The spirit that inhabited the tree inhabited also the Maypole taken from the forest and the Maypole was a religious ceremony. The garlands that children still carry from house to house, and the Maypole, to secure a visit from the spirit, and consequent well-being. The Maypole and Jack-in-the-green were, in origin, human figures."

"The belief that the Maypole ensures fertility, both in women and cattle, is still held in some parts of Germany, on May-Day, the peasants set up May-trees at the doors of stables and cow-byes, a tree for each cow, and they endeavor to ensure that the cows will give plenty of milk."

The Light on Tennyson.

The third volume of the new Everyman's edition of the "Idylls of the King," and the notes of the poet and his son, the late Lord Tennyson, are naturally of great interest. They tell more clearly than has ever before been told how the scheme of the "Idylls" formed itself and grew in the poet's mind. Moreover, these notes are full of interesting sidelights on the personality of Tennyson.

Thus, his son notes that "Elaene, Queen of the Holy Grail, and the Passing of Arthur," were his "Idylls for reading aloud." With reference to the title the poet says, "I spent much time about the year 1830, in reading the old pastoral idylls usually spelt with one 'l'."

"My mother notes in her journal: 'July 8, 1831, A. has brought me a birthday present. He has made a book which he has made of Guinevere, which might be the nucleus of a great poem. Arthur is parting from Guinevere and says, 'Be! hither shall I never come again. Never lie by thy side; see thee no more; Farewell!'"

The appendix contains nearly one hundred pages of such notes as these, of inestimable value to the lover of Tennyson.

ECCENTRIC ALFRED NOBEL.

Alfred Nobel, whose memory receives its annual revival in the award of his munificent prizes, had little personal knowledge of England. He disliked our climate and cooking—in all London he found only one hotel and one restaurant where dinner was a possibility, and he qualified even this praise by describing his cuisine as "the least disagreeable" in England.

A disappointment that he never got over was that he was not elected a member of the Royal Society, while his lifelong weakness and nervous disposition and winter bronchitis made first Paris and then Remo his chosen abode on his attainment of wealth.

Only twice did Nobel ever visit the great high explosive factory which he established in Scotland. In Paris he found a system of dyes and he made his regular trips in his carriage driving to his laboratory outside the city. He had an extraordinary knowledge of languages, a distrust of lawyers and of the police, and when heart disease came upon him he wore a sphynx-shaped trace the irregularities of his pulse.—London Chronicle.

pawl-and-ratchets as the landing floats lower to crowded dock lips. I ached for a sight of that old crust thrower of a town, where its sky-scraper teeth bit up into the morning smoke, and it seemed to whisper, with one eye winked, 'Feed me, or I'll feed on you.' 'I want a 32 pounder,' said the man that puzzled son of the Sucker State, who knew nothing of life or living beyond the range of the Hoosiers. 'I want it all, from the Greek beautician with his barrel oven and his little steam sun on some wise-colored toilet case, to the night hawks of the Tenderloin to the groups of well-built and bright-eyed velvet and feathers and furs, with muffs as big as bush boxes, Dimey, and bunches of violets the size of a cabbage—the girls who come laughing and talking down Fifth Avenue every afternoon and make me wish I'd kept out of the Under Groove.'"

The Adventures of an Author.

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Diplomats Enjoy Party At Carroll Institute



MISS GEORGIA KNOX,

Who Took an Interesting Part in the
Diplomats' Play Last Night.

MISS MERCEDES GODOY,

Who Took the Part of an Heiress in
"Our Boys."

"Our Boys," a play in three acts, was presented last evening at Carroll Institute Hall by a company of younger society folk, under the auspices of the Charge d'Affaires of Mexico and Mme. Godoy. The hall was decorated with the Mexican colors and flags and palms, and diplomatic, official, and resident society was well represented in the audience.

The cast included Sir Geoffrey Champneys, a county magnate, Walter Penfold; Talbot Champneys, his son, Francisco Godoy; Perky Middlewick, of Devonshire House, a retired butlerman, Albert Godoy; Charles Middlewick, his son, Harry Seay; Mlle. Melrose, an heiress, Miss Mercedes Godoy; Mary Melrose, her poor cousin, Miss Georgia Catherine Knox; Clarissa Champneys, Sir Geoffrey's sister, Miss Hanna Taylor, and Miss Josephine, a lodging house slave, Miss Maria Calvo.

The plot was interesting and the play was well received. Miss Godoy and Miss Knox were especially favored with floral tributes. Miss Knox received a gorgeous basket of Annunciation lilies and roses.

Among those in the audience were the British Ambassador and Mrs. James Bryce, and Mrs. George Young, wife of the secretary, who is a guest at the embassy for a few days; the Brazilian Ambassador and Mrs. Nabuco, and the members of the embassy staffs in the city, including Mr. Baz and Mr. Floyd, several of the members from the Japanese embassy; the Danish minister, Mr. Brum; the Minister from Haiti and Mr. Lerer; the Minister from Costa Rica and Mme. Calvo and Miss Calvo, the Minister from Nicaragua and Mme. Correa; the Cuban Minister and Mme. Calvo; the Bolivian Minister and Mme. Calderon and Miss Calderon; Mr. Arsenault, chargé d'affaires of the legation of Panama; the Peruvian minister, the Argentine Minister and Mme. Portela, the Minister from Ecuador and Mme. Calvo; the Minister from Mexico and Mme. Calvo; the Minister from Colombia and Mme. Cortes, the Secretary of the Legation of Mexico, Guzman and his guest, Mrs. Rutledge; the Spanish minister, Señor Mejia; the minister from Salvador, the minister from Honduras, Dr. Ugarte; the Minister from Chile and Mme. Cruz, and Mr. Voacham, secretary of the legation; several members of the Chilean legation staff, the chargé d'affaires of Venezuela, and Señor Veloz and Miss Veloz.

A decorated group of young girls, including Miss Maria Calvo, Miss Elena Calderon, Miss Maria A. Carbo, Miss Mary J. Taylor, Miss Ana C. Carbo, Miss Josephine, Miss Julia Victor, Miss Nina Van Arsdale, and Miss Lillian Dann, comprised the reception committee, assisted by Miss Seymour, Mrs. E. J. Cowles, Mrs. Henry A. Seymour and Miss Evelyn W. Seymour, of Washington, will sell on the steamship Princess Irene, of the North German Lloyd line, tomorrow, for Genoa via Gibraltar and Naples.

Mrs. Carter, wife of Senator Carter of Montana, has returned to her home in Washington from Richmond, Va., where she spent several days. Mrs. Carter was accompanied by Mrs. Branagan, who is on a visit to the United States from the Philippines.

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MISS MERCEDES GODOY,

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Congressional Club Guest at Tea of Mrs. Fairbanks.

Mrs. Fairbanks entertained a large party of women at tea yesterday afternoon in the Vice Presidential mansion on K street, in honor of the members of the Congressional Club, who were an honorary member. The drawing room floor was decorated with clusters of dogwood and palms, and the tea table held a huge centerpiece of yellow daisies.

Miss Kean, sister of Senator Kean of New Jersey, who wore a handsome gown of black satin and lace, presided at one of the tables, having as her vivacious Miss Cannon, daughter of the Speaker, who wore black satin striped chiffon over white.

Mrs. Fairbanks, who looked particularly handsome in a gown of violet moire silk and lace, with a yoke of net, was assisted in receiving the guests by Mrs. James Brock Perkins, wife of Representative Perkins, of New York. Mrs. Perkins is the president of the club, and was one of the prime movers in its organization. She wore a modish costume of deep cream embroidered crepe, trimmed with folds of panne and decorated with a yoke of net.

There were about two hundred guests, being already enrolled on the club list.

The Club of Colonial Dames, recently organized in Washington, held a reception at Raucher's last evening. All along the evening the ball room, which was crowded with guests, most of whom were descendants of famous warriors, statesmen, and others in American history, a section of the Marine Band played throughout the evening.

Mrs. Foraker, who occupied the place at the head of the receiving party, did so in the absence of Mrs. Samuel Spencer, president of the club, who, on account of being in mourning, was unable to be present. Mrs. Foraker wore a handsome white lace gown embroidered with pearls and made over cloth of silver, and trimmed with gold roses. She wore diamond ornaments.

Miss Ambler, the founder of the society, who wore black lace trimmed in old lace, stood beside Mrs. Foraker. Mrs. Robinson Buchanan, who was next in the line of those receiving, wore a decorated pearl gown with a yoke of net. Miss Ella Lorraine Jersey wore black lace and diamond ornaments.

Mrs. Frances J. Ricks wore pompadour taffeta silk; Miss Kean wore white brocade trimmed with old lace; Mrs. R. H. Hoos wore black silk over chiffon; Mrs. Seth Shepard wore white lace trimmed with tulle and wore diamond ornaments; Mrs. Green, who stood beside Mrs. Shepard, wore very attractive in pearl roses. Mrs. Arthur Lee, who was next in the party, wore white tulle embroidered in silver and gold.

Among other handsomely gowned women were Mrs. Elkins, who wore gold; Mrs. Joseph E. embroidered in gold; Mrs. Gill-oble, who wore General Gill-oble, beautiful old lace over muslin, with unique silver ornaments; Mrs. Woodruff, black spangled net; Mrs. Roscoe C. Bulmer, turquoise blue cream lace and silver ornaments; Mrs. Richard Harlow, green velvet, trimmed with gold; Mrs. Ten Eyck Wendell, white satin, with old lace; Mrs. Charles Campbell, electric blue and white, with a pearl and diamond necklace; Mrs. William Ruffin Cox, pale blue brocade, embroidered in silver and gold; Mrs. Thomas Chasard, black chiffon edged with black jet, over Copenhagen blue silk, and trimmed with touches of blue velvet; Miss Wood, pink liberty ker, pale blue satin, made princess; Mrs. J. Van Vechten Olcott, pale blue chiffon, hand painted, and trimmed with bands of blue satin and old lace; Mrs. William Corcoran Hill, pink embroidered brocade, trimmed with fountains of gold lace; Mrs. J. Van Vechten Olcott, black tulle, trimmed with silver and white tulle.

The following were among those who called during the evening: Senator

Gives Farewell Tea For Wife of Naval Attache.

Baroness von Sternburg, wife of the German ambassador, will be hostess at a tea this afternoon, given as a farewell compliment to Mme. Hebbinghaus, and to which she has invited the personal friends of the popular young wife of the naval attaché of the embassy, Captain Hebbinghaus, who will shortly be transferred to another post of duty.

Captain and Mme. Hebbinghaus will make a series of visits in this country before sailing in July, however.

The parlors of the embassy will be decorated with spring flowers and ferns, and Mme. Hebbinghaus and the baroness will receive alone. Miss Violet Langham, sister of the baroness, will preside at the tea table.

Mrs. Van Rensselaer Hostess.

Mrs. John Van Rensselaer was hostess at a reception in the green room at the Arlington Hotel yesterday afternoon for the Colonial Dames. This was one of the most enjoyable informal affairs the club has given. The room was beautifully adorned with branches of spring blossoms and palms.

Among those assisting Mrs. Van Rensselaer were Mrs. Hughes Oliphant, Mrs. Robertau Buchanan, Mrs. Schuyler Schaeffer, Miss Sampson, Mrs. Parker, Miss Elsie Biles, Miss Ella Lorraine Jersey, Miss Elsie Biles, Mrs. George Andrews, Mrs. Cragin, Miss Agnes Peter, Mrs. Williams, and Mrs. J. William Henry.

Mrs. and Mrs. Perry Belmont, who were in Newport to attend the Wagstaff-French wedding. Tuesday, have returned to Washington.

Mrs. McCartney and Mrs. Irwin have Mrs. Thomas Hardin, of New York, as their house guest.

Mrs. Henry St. George Tucker, who has been spending some time in Washington, is preparing to return to her home in Lexington, Va.

Mrs. J. J. Morrow entertained a large party at bridge luncheon yesterday complimentary to Mrs. Schuyler Scandrett, of Pittsburgh, who is her house guest.

Dr. Vogel's Dinner.

The Swiss minister, Dr. Vogel, gave a dinner last evening in the legation, on Hillier place. The guest list included the French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand, the Belgian minister, Baron Moncheur; Senator and Mrs. Winthrop Murray Crane, Mrs. Herbert Parsons, Mrs. John H. Brown, Mrs. Frederick Benedict, and Mr. Kropusky, chargé d'affaires of the Russian embassy.

Mrs. Garfield, wife of the Secretary of the Interior, who was to have given a picnic party to Great Falls yesterday, was obliged to postpone the affair on account of the inclement weather until Wednesday.